



Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
State Department for Livestock Development
P.O. Box 30028 Nairobi



Emergency Locust Response Program
P.O. Box 30028,
Nairobi



Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization
P.O. Box 57811-00200,
Nairobi



Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project
P.O. Box 8073 00200,
Nairobi



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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya

Guidelines on Sustainable Ruminant Feeds and Nutrition Security for Kenya

CHAPTER 2 DRIVERS OF FEED AND NUTRITION INSECURITY

2.9 Invasive plant species

Emerging invasive and parasitic plant species have rapidly depressed pasture establishment in the rangelands causing pasture inadequacy, hindering access and hampering regeneration. This is because these plants are not palatable to livestock and in some cases they could be poisonous. The most prevalent invaders include *Ipomea pandurata*, *Acacia reficiens*, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Cuscuta japonica* (Photo 2.4). The invasive plant species have colonised pastureland in the rangelands in most parts of the country, reducing availability of feed. Most of the desired grass species have been suppressed. Other species have depressed biomass performance and are of low quality. The frequency of uncontrollable invader species has increased due to climate change and poor management practices.



Ipomea (*Ipomea pandurata*)



Prosopis (*Prosopis juliflora*)



Japanese Dodder plant (*Cuscuta japonica*)



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Photo **Error! No text of specified style in document.**-1. Invasive plant species affecting livestock feeds availability